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Docket No. MCP 231

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Parikh, et al.  
Serial No.: 09/745,243 Art Unit: 1615  
Filed : 21 December 2000 Examiner: Pulliam, Amy  
For : TEXTURE MASKED PARTICLES CONTAINING AN ACTIVE INGREDIENT

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated 24 June 2003 ("Office Action") and the Notice of Appeal mailed 24 September 2003 ("Notice"), please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 13 of this paper.